

**Washington, DC**-Members of Congress **Ciro D. Rodriguez** (TX-23), **Lamar Smith** (TX-21), and **Henry Cuellar** (TX-28) today touted nearly \$11.2 million secured in funding for projects in the Fiscal Year 2009 omnibus Appropriations bill including \$10 million for the San Antonio Channel Improvement Project on the San Antonio River and \$1,187,500 for various airfield improvements at the San Antonio International Airport.

"As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am proud to have worked to secure funding for projects in San Antonio and other communities in my district," said Rodriguez. "This year we'll bring home money again for our river and for a better airport that will help lead the way for more economic development in our great city."

"For San Antonians and visitors alike, the river is the public face of our community and the airport, located in TX-21, helps to connect that community to the world," said Smith. "Federal funding for both of these key projects will contribute to our future economic growth and help to ensure that San Antonio continues to be a world-class city."

"In today's challenging economic times, these major funds for the San Antonio River are a welcome investment in the city's economy," said Cuellar. "Not only will they help to prevent flooding and protect the river's natural resources, but they will create jobs in San Antonio and build infrastructure that will serve the community for years to come."

The funding bill for 2009 is expected to pass the House and Senate this week and be sent to the President for his signature. It is the annual spending bill for Congress and is not tied to the American Recovery Act passed by Congress this month.